



Application No. 10/671,773
Amendment dated August 15, 2005
Reply to Office Action of May 13, 2005

Docket No.: 0941-0848P

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 and 24 are now present in this application.

Claims 1 and 24 have been amended, and claim 23 has been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 7, 8 and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Bacchetta et al., U.S. Patent 5,627,403, in view of Wu, U.S. Patent 6,689,658. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 2, 3 and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Bacchetta et al. in view of Wu, and further in view of Higashitani et al., U.S. Patent 6,346,737. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4-6 and 10 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Bacchetta et al. in view of Wolf et al., "Silicon Processing for the VLSI Era Volumne I: Process Technology." This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 9 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Bacchetta et al. in view of Sung, U.S. Patent 6,235,592. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge that the Examiner considers claims 12-22 to be allowable, and claims 23 and 24 to contain allowable subject matter. Without conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejections, but simply to expedite prosecution, it is noted that the limitations of objected-to but allowable claim 23 have been incorporated into independent claim 1. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of all 35 USC 103 rejections are respectfully requested.

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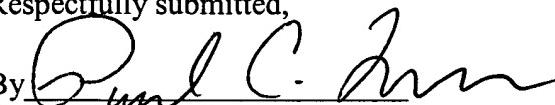
Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: August 15, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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